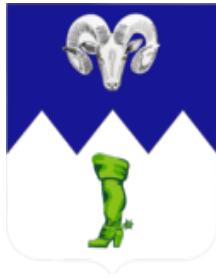


The History of the Ram's Head Device



85th Regimental Crest



Ram's Head Device

The Military Mountaineer Badge, commonly known as the Ram's Head Device, is derived from the 85th Infantry Regimental Crest which is topped by a ram's head symbolizing a unit skilled in mountain activity. The 85th was one of three regiments comprising the 10th Light Division (Alpine) when it was activated in July, 1943. The 85th Infantry Regiment trained in mountain and cold-weather warfare at Camp Hale, Colorado in 1943 and 1944. The 85th then conducted extensive mountain combat operations in Italy during World War II including actions at Riva Ridge, Mount Belvedere Ridge and the Po Valley. The 10th Light Division (Alpine) later became the 10th Mountain Division, headquartered at Fort Drum, New York.

In the 1950s, the United States Army Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command at Fort Carson and Camp Hale, Colorado adopted the Ram's Head Device as the badge worn by their cadre.

In 1983, the Vermont Army National Guard Mountain Warfare School was established in Jericho, Vermont. The Ram's Head Device was adopted as the Military Mountaineer Badge denoting successful completion of the Basic Military Mountaineer Course and awarding of the Skill Qualification Identifier – E "Military Mountaineer." In 2003 the Vermont Army Mountain Warfare School became the United States Army Mountain Warfare School.

The Army Mountain Warfare School continues to award the Ram's Head Device to soldiers who complete the Basic Military Mountaineer Course. The Ram's Head was chosen in recognition of the sacrifices our mountain soldiers made during World War II and the proud tradition of the United States Army's past mountain warfare training institutions.